Aster undulatus × Novi-Belgii. Stem tall, 7 to 9 dm. high, closely cinerious-puberulent especially above, bearing toward the summit many loosely ascending very leafy branches: leaves oblong or elliptic-oblong, dull and more or less puberulent on both faces; those of the main stem 3 to 6 cm. long, 1 to 2 cm. broad, acuminate at the tip, narrowed to a slightly clasping base; coarsely appressed-serrate near the middle: those of the branches numerous, much reduced, 0.7 to 1.5 cm. long, oblong to ovate, obtuse or acutish, subentire: heads few or solitary at the tips of the branches; the involucre 6 or 7 mm. high, the bracts in 2 or 3 series, either linear-lanceolate and firmly appressed-ascending, or with the outer recurved, or linear-attenuate, herbaceous, and mostly recurved-spreading: rays blue-purple. — Damp sandy thicket, Carlisle, Massachusetts, October, 1900 (*Miss E. L. Shaw*).

GRAY HERBARIUM.

A FORM OF THE BITTER BOLETUS.—The form of the Bitter Boletus (*B. felleus* Bull.) that grows on hemlock stumps is sufficiently familiar. In its small cap, comparatively slender, and markedly reticulated stem this form of the hemlock stumps departs from the usually generous and frequently huge dimensions of the species as it grows in rich woods. That the larger form may sometimes appear on stumps was shown at Alstead, New Hampshire, early in July and doubtless others have observed it. A specimen was found with a very stout stem that was swollen at the base and half covered with coarse reticulations, the walls of which have an imperfect hymenium. This answered to Peck's variety *obesus*, which is usually terrestrial. Its appearance during a very wet season in place of the smaller form suggests that the stout-footed form is not a variety in the strictly systematic sense — an observation applicable to numerous similar so-called varieties of fleshy fungi. In this specimen the angular and in some places compound pores were larger than in those of a neighboring small but mature specimen. In spite of a heavy rain the night before no viscidity, such as Professor Peck speaks of, was noted. Both stem and pore surface on being bruised assumed permanently a brown tint — the brown of dead leaves — which was strongest on the flesh colored spore surface. The flesh showed a slight tendency to turn pinkish — not always noticeable in dry weather, and the tubes became strongly flesh-color when the air and moisture were squeezed out of them.

Perhaps the only justification for offering a note on such a well-known species as *Boletus felleus* is the hope that it may emphasize the need of close observation of the variability of common and easily recognized species of fleshy fungi as a basis for the intelligent study of less common forms, the descriptions of which as recorded and fixed in type are often much too rigid and exclusive.— H. WEBSTER, Alstead Centre, New Hampshire.

VIRULENCE OF THE WILD PARSNIP.—The following note on poisoning from contact with the juice of the Parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) may prove of interest. The writer was walking with a botany class along a Berkshire roadside, and attracted the attention of a farmer, who after some conversation on the various herbs growing near by, asked whether I knew that the Parsnip, which lined the roadside, was poisonous to handle. I replied in the negative, and shortly after when the farmer had left us, expressed my disbelief in the poisonous qualities attributed to the plant. To prove its innocence I broke off a stalk, let the juice collect and rubbed it hard across my wrist. During the rest of the walk nothing developed, and I thought that I had proved my case. Over night, however, a blister developed on the spot, preceded, I believe, by irritation, though of this latter point, I am not certain. The blister became large and did not subside for several days. After an interval of six years, a dark line on the wrist still serves to attest the truth of the farmer's observation.—RALPH HOFFMANN, Alstead Centre, New Hampshire.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE JOSSELYN SOCIETY.— The Annual Meeting and Field Day of the Josselyn Botanical Society of Maine was held at Machias, July 8–11 inclusive, and proved a most successful and profitable season.

The days were spent in the field, the evenings with receptions, business meetings, and lectures. Merritt Lyndon Fernald talked on The Flowering Plants of the Maine Coast, describing the coast-line, the direction of the prevailing winds, and the effect upon the flora of the coast, explaining the geographic origin of our flora, and illustrating with characteristic plants of the extreme portions of the coast of Maine. Frank Shipley Collins spoke on The Sea Weeds of New